Information

Recorded water levels in this bulletin are derived from a representative network of water level gages on each lake (see cover map). Providers of these data are the U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA, National Ocean Service, and Integrated Science Data Management, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada. The Detroit District, Corps of Engineers and Environment Canada derive historic and projected lake levels under the auspices of the Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data.

This bulletin is produced monthly as a public service. The Corps also, on a weekly basis publishes online the *Great Lakes, Connecting Channels and St. Lawrence River Water Levels and Depths*, which provides a forecast of depths in the connecting rivers between the Great Lakes and the International Section of the St. Lawrence River. This *Monthly Bulletin of the Lake Levels for the Great Lake*s may be obtained free of charge by writing to the address shown on the front cover, by calling (313) 226-6442 or emailing hhpm@usace.army.mil. Notices of change of address should include the name of the publication. This information is available on the internet at http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/GreatLakesInformation.aspx.

Great Lakes Basin Hydrology
December 2015

Precipitation over the Great Lakes basin during the month of December was well above average, especially over Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron, which received 143% and 166% of average December precipitation, respectively. As a result of the high precipitation and warm temperatures, supplies were above average on all lakes, but especially high on Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron. In fact, water supplies to Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron were the highest they have ever been during the month of December. The tables below list December precipitation and water supply information for the Great Lakes basin.

Water levels went up on all lakes over the month of December. For Lake Superior, this marks the first time in the period of record (1918-2014) that water levels went up during the month of December. Monthly mean levels were above long term average December levels on all lakes but Ontario, which was 2 inches below its average December level. Lakes Superior and Erie were both 7 inches above long-term December average levels, and Lakes Michigan-Huron and St. Clair were both 9 inches above their long term average December levels.

PRECIPITATION (INCHES)

BASIN	December				12-Month Comparison			
	2015	Average (1900-2012)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 Months	Average (1900-2012)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	2.88	2.01	0.87	143	29.16	30.43	-1.27	96
Michigan-Huron	3.91	2.36	1.55	166	29.50	32.48	-2.98	91
Erie	2.87	2.68	0.19	107	33.20	35.59	-2.39	93
Ontario	2.96	2.95	1.80	100	31.88	35.83	-3.95	89
Great Lakes	3.37	2.36	1.01	143	30.03	32.68	-2.65	92

LAKE	December Net Basin Supplies[1] (cfs)		December Outflows[2] (cfs)	
	2015	Average (1900-2008)	2015	Average[3] (1900-2008)
Superior	91,000	-22,000	85,000	72,000
Michigan-Huron	244,000	34,000	200,000	183,000
Erie	22,000	21,000	214,000	201,000
Ontario	36,000	27,000	246,000	234,000

Notes: Values (excluding averages) are based on preliminary computations; cfs denotes cubic feet per second.

[1] Net basin supply is the net result of precipitation falling on the lake, runoff from precipitation falling on the land which flows to the lake, and evaporation from the lake. Negative net basin supply denotes evaporation exceeded runoff and precipitation. The net total supply can be found by adding the net basin supply and the outflow from the upstream lake.

[2] Does not include diversions.

[3] Lake Ontario average water supplies and average outflows are based on period of record 1900-2005